

5

CLAIMS:

Sub 01
1. Absorbent article intended for female users, such as a sanitary napkin, a panty-liner or an incontinence protector, comprising a liquid-pervious surface layer (2), a liquid-impervious surface layer (3), and an absorbent body (4) enclosed between the two surface layers (2, 3), wherein the article further exhibits a wetting region (15), which is the region of the liquid-pervious surface layer which is intended to first be wetted by body fluid emitted to the article,

characterized in that the liquid-pervious surface layer (2) within the wetting region (15) is constituted of hydrophilic material (16), at least at the surface of the layer (2) which is intended to be facing the user during use, and that remaining parts of the liquid-pervious surface layer (2) are constituted of a hydrophobic material (14).

2. Absorbent article according to claim 1, characterized in that the article exhibits a hump (317; 517), projecting from the liquid-pervious surface layer (302; 502), wherein the location of the hump (317; 517) on the article at least partially coincides with the wetting region (315; 515).

A
3. Absorbent article according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the hydrophilic material (16) in the liquid-pervious surface layer (2) primarily consists of hydrophilic, absorbent fibres such as cellulose fibres, cotton, rayon, jute, peat moss, or the like.

A 4. Absorbent article according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t t h e h y d r o p h i l i c
m a t e r i a l (16) i n t h e l i q u i d - p e r v i o u s s u r f a c e l a y e r (2)
p r i m a r i l y c o n s i s t s o f h y d r o p h i l i c , a b s o r b e n t f o a m m a t e r i a l ,
5 s u c h a s p o l y u r e t h a n e f o a m , c e l l u l o s e f o a m , o r t h e l i k e .

A 5. Absorbent article according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of the~~
~~preceding claims~~,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t t h e h y d r o p h o b i c
10 m a t e r i a l (14) i n t h e l i q u i d - p e r v i o u s s u r f a c e l a y e r (2)
p r i m a r i l y c o n s i s t s o f h y d r o p h o b i c f i b r e s s u c h a s
p o l y p r o p y l e n e f i b r e s , p o l y e t h y l e n e f i b r e s , p o l y e s t e r
f i b r e s , o r h y d r o p h o b i c b i - c o m p o n e n t f i b r e s .

A 15 6. Absorbent article according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of the~~
~~preceding claims~~,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t t h e h y d r o p h o b i c
m a t e r i a l (14) i n t h e l i q u i d - p e r v i o u s s u r f a c e l a y e r (2)
p r i m a r i l y c o n s i s t s o f a h y d r o p h o b i c f o a m m a t e r i a l , s u c h a s
20 p o l y e t h y l e n e f o a m .

A 7. Absorbent article according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of the~~
~~preceding claims~~,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t t h e l i q u i d - p e r v i o u s
25 s u r f a c e l a y e r (2) c o m p r i s e s a l a m i n a t e o f a f i r s t l i q u i d -
p e r v i o u s , h y d r o p h o b i c m a t e r i a l l a y e r (14) a r r a n g e d c l o s e s t
t o t h e a b s o r b e n t b o d y (4) , a n d a s e c o n d l i q u i d - p e r v i o u s ,
h y d r o p h i l i c m a t e r i a l l a y e r (16) , o f s u b s t a n t i a l l y t h e s a m e
e x t e n s i o n a s t h e w e t t i n g r e g i o n (15) o f t h e a r t i c l e ,
30 a r r a n g e d o u t s i d e t h e f i r s t m a t e r i a l l a y e r (14) a n d i n t e n d e d
t o b e a r o n t h e b o d y o f t h e u s e r i n t h e w e t t i n g r e g i o n (15)
d u r i n g u s e .

A 8. Absorbent article according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of claims 1-6~~,
35 c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n t h a t t h e l i q u i d - p e r v i o u s
s u r f a c e l a y e r (302) c o m p r i s e s a l a m i n a t e o f a f i r s t l i q u i d -

pervious, hydrophobic material layer (314), and a second liquid-pervious, hydrophilic material layer (316) arranged closest to the absorbent body (304), inside the first material layer (314), wherein the hydrophobic material layer (314) exhibits an opening, of substantially the same extension as the wetting region (315) of the article, through which the hydrophilic layer (316) is exposed.

A 9. Absorbent article according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
10 characterized in that the hydrophilic material (16) in the liquid-pervious surface layer (2) is constituted of a hydrophobic material which has been rendered hydrophilic.

A 15 10. Absorbent article according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
characterized in that the hydrophobic material (14) in the liquid-pervious surface layer (2) is constituted of a hydrophilic material which has been rendered hydrophobic.

20 A 11. Absorbent article according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of the~~
~~preceding claims~~,
characterized in that the article has such a shape and rigidity that it stays in position against the
25 body of the user without the need for a special attachment means.

A 12. Absorbent article according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of the~~
~~preceding claims~~,
30 characterized in that the article is kept in position against the body of the user by means of a girdle or the like, which is detached from the panties.

A 13. Absorbent article according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of the~~
35 ~~preceding claims~~,

characterized in that the article comprises a shaping member which, by means of influence from the forces which the article is subjected to during use, has the ability to bring the wetting region (15) into contact with the mucous membranes of the user.

14. Absorbent article according to claim 13, characterized in that the shaping member is constituted of compressions, folding notches, or the like.

15. Absorbent article according to claim 13, characterized in that the shaping member is constituted of an insert.